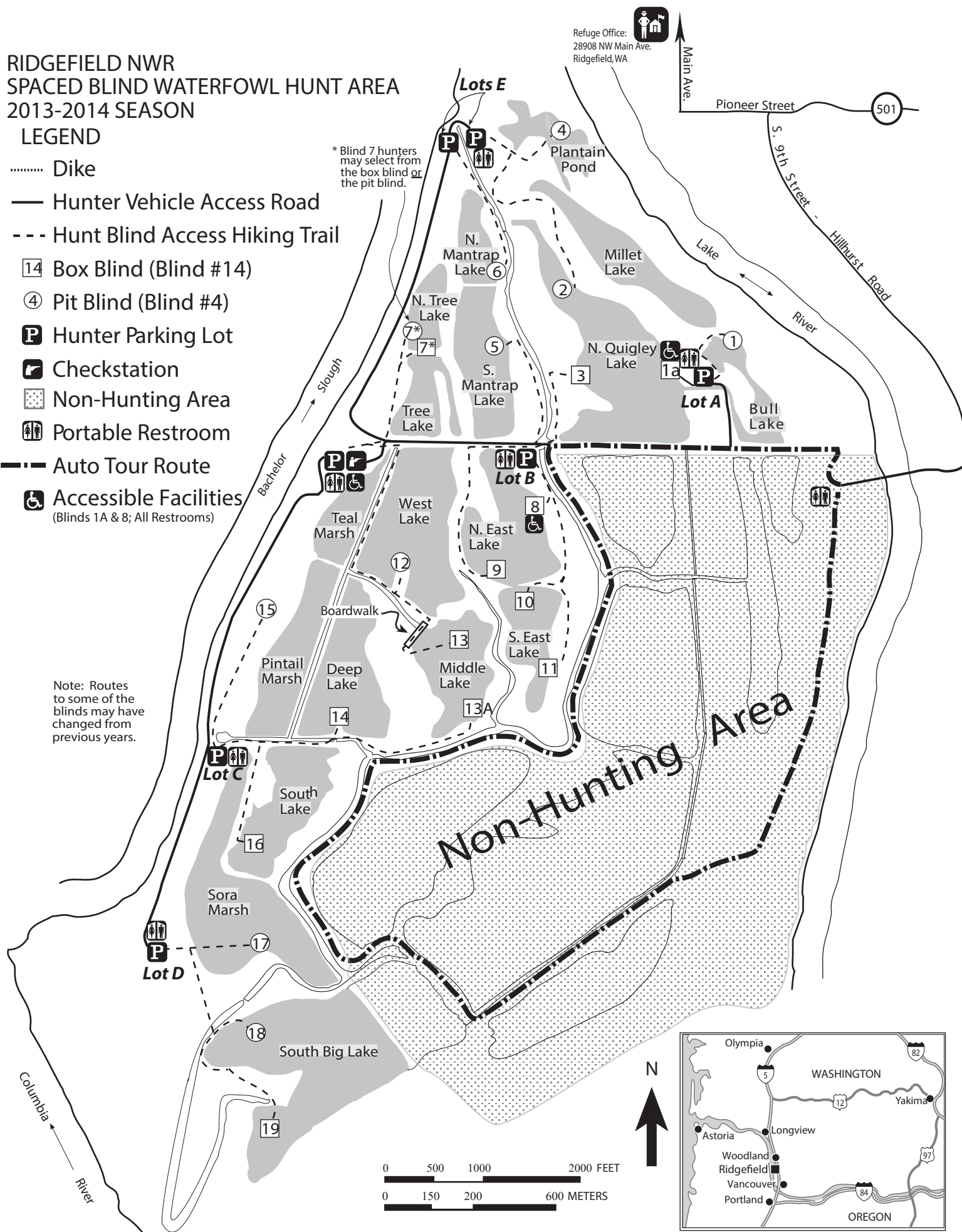


# RIDGEFIELD NWR SPACED BLIND WATERFOWL HUNT AREA 2013-2014 SEASON

## LEGEND

- ..... Dike
- Hunter Vehicle Access Road
- - - Hunt Blind Access Hiking Trail
- 14 Box Blind (Blind #14)
- 4 Pit Blind (Blind #4)
- P Hunter Parking Lot
- Checkstation
- Non-Hunting Area
- Portable Restroom
- Auto Tour Route
- Accessible Facilities  
(Blinds 1A & 8; All Restrooms)

Note: Routes to some of the blinds may have changed from previous years.



## WATERFOWL HUNTING REGULATIONS for RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Waterfowl hunting is permitted on approximately 760 acres of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in accordance with all applicable Washington and Federal regulations, and subject to these Refuge Special Conditions.

ONLY ducks, geese, and coots may be taken. ALL other species are protected.

**Hunting Days:** Hunting is permitted on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday during the regular state season, excluding any Federal Holidays occurring on those days. Please also note, the morning of October 26<sup>th</sup> is reserved for a Youth Waterfowl Hunt. The Refuge's goose season will close if dusky Canada goose harvest meets or exceeds the Refuge's harvest quota. If you are coming to the Refuge to hunt geese, please call the Refuge Hunter Hotline at (360) 571-2015 or call the State office (360) 696-6211 to make sure the Refuge goose season is still open. Duck hunting will continue on the Refuge regardless of a goose hunting closure.

**Application Period:** Applications may be obtained by visiting the Refuge website, [www.fws.gov/ridgefieldrefuges](http://www.fws.gov/ridgefieldrefuges), or from Refuge Headquarters at 28908 NW Main Avenue, Ridgefield. Applications for advanced reservations for waterfowl hunting are due: September 16 for hunt days in October and November; November 15 for hunt days in December; and December 16 for hunt days in January.

**Application Process:** Only one application per person per application period is allowed. Each applicant has the opportunity to apply for ten hunt days per application period. Applications must be received anytime prior to the application due date. A separate application must be submitted for each application period. Applications fees are \$1.00 per date selected (10 maximum per application period) payable to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by check or money order. Multiple applications from the same household may be paid with one check.

**Reservations:** Successful reservation applicants are randomly selected by a computer drawing. Reservations are not transferable. Reservations are valid until 1 ¼ hours before legal shooting time on the day of the reservation. Reservations lost to emergency or weather related closures of the hunt area will not be reissued. **Important:** Reservations are valid until 1 ¾ hours before legal shooting time, reservation hunters arriving to the checkstation after 1 ¾ hours before legal shooting time will be afforded no additional privileges in blind assignments.

**Program Operations:** The Ridgefield NWR River "S" Unit gate will open two hours before legal shooting time. There is no overnight camping on the Refuge. Hunters MUST arrive at the checkstation by 1 ¾ hours before legal shooting time for hunter registration and orientation. Blind selection for all hunters will be held after registration and orientation. Reservation holders will select blinds in order according to the preprinted numbers on their reservation (lowest number selecting first). After all reservation holders have selected their blinds, unoccupied blinds will be filled by standby hunters, according to a lottery drawing conducted at the checkstation. Reservation or standby hunters may forego their opportunity for a morning hunt to be placed on a waiting list to refill blinds as they vacate. No blinds will be refilled until 10:00 a.m., at which time, reservation/standby hunters on the waiting list will be offered selection priority for available blinds. Early morning reservation/standby hunters on the waiting list must be present by 10:00 a.m. to maintain their position on the list. Promptly at 10:00 a.m., a second lottery drawing for hunters will be conducted. The 10:00 a.m. lottery will establish the blind selection order among its participants. The 10:00 a.m. lottery will complete the waiting list behind any remaining reservation/standby hunters from the early morning draw. Depending upon blind availability, hunters arriving after the 10:00 a.m. lottery will either be placed on the waiting list or select a blind on a first-come first-served basis.

**Recreation User Fee:** A charge of \$10.00 per blind or \$8.00 per hunter, whichever is greater, will be collected at the checkstation. Please see the hunter information board at the checkstation for additional user fee combinations. Season passes are also available for \$100.00. Checks or money orders should be made out to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Holders of Golden Age Passport/Senior Pass or Golden Access Passport/Access Pass are entitled to a 50% discount of the recreation fee. These Passes are available at Refuge Headquarters during regular office hours. There is no fee for youth hunters, 15 year of age or younger. Though, youth hunters must be accompanied by a supervising adult at all times.

**Disabled Hunters:** Two hunting blinds with wheelchair access are available (Blind 1A and Blind 8). Please notify the checkstation staff upon your arrival before hunter registration begins, if you are a disabled hunter. Blind 1A will be reserved exclusively for persons with permanent disabilities that either possess a State Disabled Hunter Placard (see WAC 232-12-828 for qualifications) or a Federal Access Pass. Please note, only disabled hunters possessing a Federal Access Pass will receive reduced rates on the blind fee. Non-disabled hunters will only be allowed to use Blind 1A if accompanying a disabled hunter. Blind 8, while accessible, is not reserved for disabled hunters and is available to any hunter on a first-come, first-served basis. Disabled reservation holders have priority access to Blind 1. A checkstation lottery will select occupancy in the event of multiple non-reservation holding parties of disabled hunters vying for Blind 1a.

**Weapons/Ammunition:** Weapons must be unloaded except at blinds or while retrieving crippled birds. Hunters may not use or possess more than 25 shells per day. Only Federal- and State-approved, non-toxic, shot shells may be used.

**Injuries/Accidents:** Any injury or accident occurring on the Refuge must be reported immediately to the staff.

**Dogs:** While hunting, the use of trained retrievers is encouraged to reduce the loss of downed waterfowl. Training and exercising your dog, however, is not allowed. Dogs must remain on a leash except when at the blind or under control while retrieving downed waterfowl. Dogs chasing, harassing, or harming wildlife, other than downed waterfowl, is prohibited.

**Blind & Hunting Information:** Maximum capacity of any blind is 3 persons. All hunters must report directly to their blind after making their selection. Hunting is only allowed from the blind. Hunters are to stay in the blind, unless retrieving waterfowl. Hunters cannot join a hunt party already occupying a blind. Hunters wishing to switch blinds must report to the checkstation and will be either subject to the 10:00 a.m. lottery or placed last on any established waiting lists after 10:00 a.m. All hunters are required to check-in and check-out at the checkstation. While hunting a harvest card must be in possession, as proof of payment. Hunters are to submit accurate and complete harvest cards upon checkout from the hunt area. Failure to comply with Washington/Federal regulations or Refuge Special Conditions may be grounds for citation and/or loss of privileges to participate in the Refuge's waterfowl hunt program.

**Special Regulations Blinds 17/18/19:** The breeding population of dusky Canada geese remains below targets prescription in the Pacific Flyway Management Plan for the Dusky Canada Goose requiring management agencies to implement efforts to reverse this decline. At Ridgefield, Blinds 17, 18, and 19 will be closed to goose hunting this season.

**Information Contact:** For after hours and weekends, please call the refuge hunter hotline for the most up to date information at (360) 571-2015. The hunter hotline will also announce emergency and weather related closures of the hunt area. Refuge Waterfowl Hunt Information is on the Web at: [www.fws.gov/ridgefieldrefuges](http://www.fws.gov/ridgefieldrefuges).